## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 /117 W

-----092953 140512Z /62

R 131832Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5456 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

GENEVA FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MTN: ARTICLE 113 DISCUSSION ON MARCH 10

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 4554, (B) BRUSSELS 4527

1. PERMREP SOURCES INFORM US THAT ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON MARCH 10 OPENED WITH A BRIEFING FROM DIRECTORS GENERAL DENMAN AND RABOT ON WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS MARCH 7 AND 8. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, DENMAN CHARACTERIZED THE WASHINGTON SESSION AS A POLITICAL EXERCISE TO MAKE THE EC POSITION CLEAR, PARTICULARLY ON SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS AND THE FACT THAT THE US TARIFF OFFER WAS UNSATISFACTORY IN PART. DENMAN REPORTEDLY STATED THAT COMMISSION HAD NOT ANTICIPATED SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS AT THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS, BEYOND MAKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE POLITICAL POINTS. ON AGRICULTURE, RABOT EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON DAIRY, WHERE THE U.S. APPEARED MORE PRONE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATION, AND ON GRAINS, WHERE HE THOUGHT A MEETING OF THE MINDS WAS EVENTUALLY POSSIBLE. ONE SOURCE ADDED THAT IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE FRENCH ON PRECISELY WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON GRAINS,

## RABOT WAS HIGHLY IMPRECISE.

2. REST OF MTN DISCUSSION WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO A FURTHER EFFORT AT ASSESSING THE US, JAPAN, AND CANADA TARIFF OFFER. MARCH 10 MEETING DID NOT DISCUSS PRO-DUCTS BUT ONLY TACTICS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CURRENT EC SCHEDULE CALLS FOR FURTHER DEPUTIES. MEETINGS WEEK OF MARCH 13 WITH A HIGH-LEVEL 113 MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 17 AND A COREPER MEETING ON MARCH 22 PREPARA-TORY TO DISCUSSION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. COUNCIL ON APRIL 3-4. EC IS CONTINUING ALONG THE TWO-TRACK SESSION MENTIONED IN REF B. ONE SOURCE THOUGHT THAT BY MARCH 17, A SPECIFIC LIST OF PRODUCTS ON WHICH IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE REQUESTED OF THE US WOULD BE APPROVED. HE THOUGHT THAT A WITHDRAWAL LIST, FOR SUBSEQUENT USE, WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE FINALIZED UNTIL LATER. ON OTHER HAND, A COMMISSION SOURCE TELLS US THAT COMMISSION IS HOPEFUL THAT WITHDRAWAL LIST WILL ALSO BE COMPLETED AND APPROVED BY MEMBER STATES ON MARCH 17. MORRIS

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE04948
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780112-0658 Format: TEL

From: BRUSSELS USEEC Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780377/aaaacnbs.tel Line Count: 81

Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 785874c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 4554, 78 BRUSSELS 4527

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3356504 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MTN: ARTICLE 113 DISCUSSION ON MARCH 10

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, MTN

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/785874c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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